

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKARTA 09114 101103Z

ACTION EA-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9982

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ID

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL SUDOMO'S VIEWS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND RELATED MATTERS

1. DURING MY JULY 10 CALL, I ASKED DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, ADMIRAL SUDOMO, ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENT VISIT TO INDONESIA BY COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES, GENERAL GUY MERY. SUDOMO SAID THE VISIT WAS USEFUL TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, BUT THAT IT HAD PRODUCED NO SPECIFIC RESULTS. THE FRENCH HAD PRESSED INDONESIA TO BUY THE MIRAGE, BUT THE INDONESIAN DECISION TO STICK WITH THE F-5 WAS FIRM. THOROUGH CONSIDERATION BY THE INDONESIAN MILITARY HAD CONVINCED INDONESIA'S POLICY MAKERS THAT THE F-5 WAS BEST SUITED TO MEET THEIR SECURITY. THEY WERE INFLUENCED ALSO BY THE FACT THAT THIS PLANE WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE OF THEIR MAJOR ASEAN COLLEAGUES. SUDOMO CONFIRMED THAT A MILITARY MISSION WOULD BE VISITING FRANCE, BUT SAID THAT THIS WAS LARGELY A GOODWILL MOVE. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT EQUIPMENT WHICH INDONESIA IS LIKELY TO BUY FROM FRANCE

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PAGE 02 JAKARTA 09114 101103Z

IS THE PUMA HELICOPTER.

2. SUDOMO CONFIRMED ALSO THAT INDONESIA IS DEFINITELY GOING AHEAD WITH PROCUREMENT OF AN M-16 COPRODUCTION PLANT AND WITH THE A-4 AIRCRAFT. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS CIRCULATING IN JAKARTA THAT INDONESIA MIGHT WANT TO OBTAIN TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS FROM THE UNITED STATES, SUDOMO SAID

THIS WAS INDEED TRUE. THEY HOPED OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD TO OBTAIN ENOUGH HELICOPTERS UNDER FMS TO TRANS-PORT AN INDONESIAN BATTALION. SUDOMO SAID THEY HAD NOT YET TALKED WITH THE AMERICAN FIRM INVOLVED, AND WOULD FIRST EXPLORE THE MATTER WITH DLG. SUDOMO STRESSED THAT INDONESIA HOPED TO MOVE RAPIDLY IN MEETING ALL THESE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT POOR STATE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SUDOMO CONFIRMED THAT LT. GENERAL HASAN HABIB, FORMER DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ADMINISTRATION, WILL BE GOING TO THAILAND AS AMBASSADOR. HASAN HABIB HAS HAD A RECENT HEART PROBLEM, BUT THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO BLOCK THE APPOINTMENT. THE PRESENT INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK, GENERAL SUHUD, WILL JOIN THE HANKAM STAFF AS THE DEPUTY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, REPLACING GENERAL DARYAMMO. ASKED ABOUT A PERMANENT REPLACEMENT FOR HASAN HABIB ON THE HANKAM STAFF, SUDOMO, WHO NOW TEMPORARILY HOLDS THE POSITION, SAID SOMEONE WOULD BE APPOINTED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE. MEANWHILE, GENERAL YOGI WILL HANDLE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS IN THAT OFFICE, AND SUDOMO WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY POLICY LEVEL DECISIONS.

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PAGE 03 JAKART 09114 101103Z

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